

What a year! The Atlantic Sun covered a range of issues impacting on the lives of those who live or work on the Atlantic Seaboard and the City Bowl over the last 12 months. **SELLECCA LANG** takes a look at what happened in 2010.

World Cup

Yes, it's hard to believe that at one stage when you heard "2010" all you thought about was the World Cup but that has already come and gone. Months prior to the soccer tournament which took place in June/July, residents were concerned about the traffic management plan for Green Point, Sea Point and Mouille Point. Residents were also up in arms when Traffic Services ticketed them for illegal parking when the temporary "no stopping zones" were implemented for test events, to ensure the free flow of traffic on High Level Road. The Green Point Ratepayers' and Residents' Association, issued permits that allowed residents to park in the area. During the games business boomed for establishments along the fan walk from the CBD along Somerset Road to the Cape Town Stadium, with liquor sales sky-rocketing.

Everyone enjoyed the "gees", with a record breaking 72 910 people doing the fan walk for the last match. Safety and security roleplayers were out in droves and accommodation facilities were enjoying high occupancy levels. South Africans rallied behind Bafana Bafana, proudly wearing the green and gold merchandise. The transport management plan, which included the shuttle service from the Civic Centre to Cape Town Stadium, as well as the park-and-ride points worked well. But now that the hype is gone, and everything has returned to normal, the spotlight has fallen on the stadium, with the future

and the viability of the R4.5 billion construction being debated. Many were shocked when Sail/StadeFrance decided not to sign the 30-year lease agreement to run the stadium, leaving the City to operate the world-class facility.

This raised criticism from Arthur Wienburg, who launched the non-profit organisation Cape Town Environmental Protection Association (CEPA) in 2007 to stop the stadium from being built and even took the City to the Cape High Court.

He said the stadium was going to be a white elephant no matter where it was built, but Pieter Cronje, the City's communications director, believes that the facility will be viable in the medium- to long-term.

Mr Cronje said it was too early to predict how the stadium will affect the rates of surrounding properties. The Urban Park is also set to open its doors to the public soon.

Developments

In July the Greater Cape Town Civic Alliance (GCTCA), which represents 120 civic bodies, met with the City council to voice their concerns about allegations of corruption in the Planning and Building Development Management (PBDM) Department.

GCTCA secretary and vice-chairperson Graham Noble claimed that officials were favouring developers' interests over those of communities,



■ Top: The exhumed skeleton.



■ Left: The Kraal.

they were approving illegal and fraudulent plans, juggling with heights to pass illegal plans that appear to comply with zoning scheme requirements and the "deliberate dependence" on rider plans and the failure to issue stop work or demolition orders.

Councillors at the Good Hope Sub-council 16 also asked the City manager to conduct a forensic audit into why action was not taken immediately against illegal building works and why there was a lack of follow-ups on cases by the officials, said chairperson Taki Amira.

Residents also took developers to court.

In September, 10 Bantry Bay residents coughed up R750 000 to win a High Court victory against the seven-storey Bantry Bay development, on the corner of Queens and Kloof roads.

The developers, Midnight Feast Properties, were going to submit new plans containing an amended parking plan because they still had rights to build the multi-storey apartment block. They originally planned to build more than 40 flats with 51 basement parking bays, which came into question during the court case, over six consolidated properties, taking up 2 306 square metres.

Another court case that has been on the books for three years is that of the proposed development of the Sea Point Pavilion, opposed by Seafront For All

(SEafa), a non-profit organisation aimed to preserve public open space and funded by donations.

Developers are to build a hotel, gym, shopping centre and remove a portion of the grass patch for additional parking, which will require a rezoning from public open space to commercial.

Seafa submitted a High Court application in 2007, requesting that the environmental Record of Decision (RoD), signed by former MEC Tasneem Essop, be reviewed and set aside. Seafa won the application in March. The application cost Seafa R2.5 million, which they obtained from donations. The developers then launched an application in response to Seafa's victory for leave to appeal but it was turned down in September.

The developers have now taken the case to the Supreme Court of Appeal for a ruling. Unlike the other victories, a long-time court case that concluded after a five-year battle left Camps Bay Residents' and Ratepayers' Association (CBRRA) defeated. The Constitutional Court rejected CBRRA's application for leave to appeal against the judgment of the Supreme Court of Appeal, stating that the motive was a property dispute between two neighbours.

CBRRA argued that the building exceeded the 10m height restrictions outlined in the Zon-

ing Scheme regulations and that the retaining wall along the Blinkwater Road boundary contravened the Title Deed restrictions which limited the distance of such a structure to no less than 3.15m from the street line.

Now the controversial, incomplete house in Blinkwater Drive is on sale.

Exhumed skeleton

A 1 000-year-old human skeleton in Cobern Street was exhumed in October after it delayed the construction of the non-motorised transport (NMT) lanes in Green Point. The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) granted permission for the removal after a series of meetings was held with Adrian Mackay of Arcus Gibb Consulting Engineers and archaeologist Mary Patrick. The skeleton was discovered five months ago, along with two others, in a shallow trench dug by Contractors Civils 2000.

The workers were surprised when they found two skeletons crammed into a trench, which had been accidentally dug out. The third skeleton was found in a wooden coffin, which was left buried, but later exhumed and taken to UCT for testing.

The area was historically a burial site for various denominations.

See facing page